

Message Text

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62

ORIGIN PM-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 INR-07 INRE-00 SS-15 SP-02

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DRAFTED BY EA/ROC:LEONARD; PM/ISO:MRDWORKEN

APPROVED BY PM/ISO:GTCHURCHILL

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O 042150Z MAR 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 048319

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: MARR, TW

SUBJECT: ANNOUNCEMENT OF MILITARY REDUCTION

REFS: (A) TAIPEI 1037; (B) STATE 045431 (NOTAL);
(C) COMUSTDC 011302Z MAR 75

1. FOLLOWING IS DOD-PROVIDED DRAFT TEXT OF ANNOUNCEMENT
PLANNED FOR RELEASE BY DEFENSE MARCH 6. WE WILL INFORM
YOU IF THERE ARE ANY SUBSTANTIVE CHANGES.

QUOTE: SECRETARY OF DEFENSE JAMES R. SCHLESINGER TODAY
ANNOUNCED THE INITIATION OF 17 ACTIONS TO REALIGN IN-
STALLATIONS AND FACILITIES USED BY THE U.S. FORCES IN
OVERSEAS AREAS. THESE ACTIONS WILL INVOLVE THE
ELIMINATION OF ABOUT 3,300 MILITARY POSITIONS FROM
THE OVERSEAS AREAS AND REDUCE ABOUT 730 CIVILIAN
POSITIONS, MOSTLY FOREIGN NATIONALS. ONCE THESE
ACTIONS ARE COMPLETED BY 1976, IT IS ESTIMATED THAT
DEFENSE COSTS WILL BE REDUCED BY OVER 523 MILLION
(DOLLARS) IN THE SUBSEQUENT DECADE, WHICH WILL MAKE
IT POSSIBLE TO PROVIDE THAT MUCH MORE COMBAT CAPABILITY
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AND EFFECTIVENESS OVER THE PERIOD.

DETAILS OF THE ACTIONS ANNOUNCED TODAY WILL NOT BE

RELEASED UNTIL THE CONSULTATIVE PROCESS NOW ONGOING WITH THE CONCERNED HOST COUNTRIES HAS BEEN COMPLETED AT WHICH TIME IT IS EXPECTED THAT LOCAL RELEASES WILL BE MADE.

ADDITIONAL OVERSEAS BASE REALIGNMENTS ARE EXPECTED TO BE ANNOUNCED IN 1975 AS ONGOING REVIEWS ARE COMPLETED. UNQUOTE.

2. WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT ANTICIPATE ANY SPECIFIC ANNOUNCEMENT IN WASHINGTON ON TAIWAN REDUCTIONS. ANY QUESTIONS FOLLOWING MARCH 6 ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE TURNED ASIDE WITH NO COMMENT ON GROUNDS THAT US IS CURRENTLY CONSULTING WITH COUNTRIES CONCERNED. IF ROC DOES UNEXPECTEDLY DECIDE IT WISHES TO MAKE ANNOUNCEMENT (OR IF LOCAL US MILITARY ENVISION MAKING ONE WHEN ACTIONS ARE IMPLEMENTED), AGREED TEXT SHOULD BE FORWARDED TO WASHINGTON PER INSTRUCTIONS IN REF B. AGREE THAT WE WILL IN ANY CASE NEED Q'S AND A'S FOR POSSIBLE CONTINGENCY USE, AND WILL WELCOME EMBASSY'S SUGGESTIONS. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO LOCATE REF C WITH Q AND A ON SHU LINKOU, AND HAVE ASKED DEFENSE FOR COPY OF MESSAGE. KISSINGER

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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